

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-8, 11, and 13 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116:

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendments of claims 1-8, 11, and 13 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 to Klug et al. ("Klug"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 13 have been amended to further clarify the recitations provided therein.

In Klug, once the third party web site 116 has received a response from a user, a determination is made as to whether the user is registered at the web site (step 412). See column 8, lines 44-67, of Klug. If the user is registered, then no further processing is required. Alternatively, if the user is not registered at the third party web site, then a response is

transferred from the third party web site 116 through the World Wide Web 104 to the user's WWW browser 120 providing the user with the fill-out forms in which the user is requested to enter information for **registering at the third party web site**. However, Klug fails to teach or suggest, allowing "the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites," as recited in independent claim 1. Rather, the focus of the description provided in the cited reference is to allowing the user to enter information to register at third party web sites.

Furthermore, in Klug, the third party web site 116 may present the user with a fill-out form requesting the user to enter a user ID and optionally a password for the present invention (i.e., registrar) **if the user is registered at the registrar web site 100**. See column 9, lines 1-12, of Klug. If the user chooses to use the present invention for registering at the third party web site 116, in step 424, the present third party web site sends a request to the registrar web site 100 for registering the user at the registrar web site 100.

Subsequently, in step 428 the steps of FIGS. 2A and 2B are performed for registering the user at the registrar web site 100. Subsequently, after registering at the registrar web site 100, in step 432, the user is automatically placed in contact with the present third party web site so that he/she submits a registration fill-out form to this third party web site 116: (a) indicating that the user's registration information may be obtained from the registrar web site 100; and (b) **providing a user ID (and optionally a password) for the registrar web site 100 to be used as identification at the present third party web site**. See column 9, lines 13-28, of Klug. Thus, the registrar web site 100 provides **registration information** that the user has previously provided to the web site 100, to the third party web site 116. However, Klug fails to teach or suggest that the same user ID and the password may be used as identification at other third party web sites, other than the present third party web site.

Instead, it appears that in Klug the user would need different user IDs and passwords for each third party web site. Rather than teaching or suggesting, "the integrated membership management center registers the membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center, where the membership information comprises a user ID and a password and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites," as recited in independent claim 1, the registrar web site 100 would provide the registration information that the user has previously provided to the third party web site 116 once the user ID and password is entered corresponding to a particular third party web site 116. The registration information

provided in Klug does not include the user ID and/or the password. In fact, the cited reference refers to the user ID and/or the password separately from the registration information.

Because independent claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 13 include similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 1, although of different scope, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim 1 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 13.

It is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 13 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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